THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Action has been taken under Section 24 of the Emigration Act, 1983 through the State Police Authorities to curb the activities of illegal recruiting agencies involved in exploitation of Indian emigrant workers, including women seeking employment overseas. All the States/UTs have also been requested to issue instructions to the Police Authorities and Deputy Commissioners/ District Magistrates to sensitize them about the need to curb the illegal activities of unscrupulous agents. In the last three years, sanctions have been issued in 60 cases to prosecute the illegal recruiting agencies.

(b) and (c) There are adequate provisions under the Emigration Act, 1983 to take action against the recruiting agents involved in exploitation and malpractices.

Reduction in Public Holidays

1784. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALIT BHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of reducing public holidays observed by the Central Government;

(b) how many public holidays, including Saturday-Sundays are to be observed during 2005 calender year

(c) what is the estimated loss to Government Business-Industry-Economic activity by observing one day holiday by the Central Government; and

(d) whether any representation is received from business community including exporters to reduce holidays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During calendar year 2005, the Central Government offices with 5 days week have 52 Sundays and 52 Saturdays observed as holidays (weekly off). The offices following 6 days week have 52 Sundays and

12 Saturdays. 17 Gazetted holidays have been declared during 2005 out of which three occasions fall on Sundays and one occasion falls on a Saturday.

(c) Since holidays, leave entitlement, training reserve, leave reserve etc. are factored even while working out manpower requirements for any organization, the question of any financial loss due to holidays does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Representations continue to be received from different quarters seeking reduction in holidays and for additional holidays as well.

Reservation for physically handicapped persons

1785. SHRI K.RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reserve 3 per cent nontechnical Group 'A' and 'B' Civil Services posts to physically handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the details of Group 'A' posts in the IAS opened to all three categories of disability *i.e.,* locomotors disability, hearing and visual impairment; and

(d) the details of physically handicapped people appointed in IAS for the last five years under the above categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) A statutory provision has been made that three per cent of the vacancies shall be reserved for persons with disability in various services in the posts identified for different categories, *viz.* blindness or low vision, hearing impairment and locomotor disability/cerebral palsy. An Expert Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to identify posts for physically handicapped persons in various services. Recruitment of physically handicapped persons is to be made to the identified posts in various services through Civil Services Examinations.